

## DIRECT SHIPPING PROHIBITED

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) would like to remind Michigan consumers that they may be breaking the law by ordering alcoholic beverages off the Internet or through a toll-free telephone number. Section 203 of the Michigan Liquor Code (MCL 436.1203) outlines exactly who may make a sale, delivery or import alcoholic liquor in Michigan. The section states that a sale, delivery, or importation of alcoholic liquor, including alcoholic liquor for personal use, shall not be made in this state **unless the sale, delivery or importation is made by the commission, the commission's authorized agent or distributor, an authorized distribution agent approved by order of the commission, a person licensed by the commission, or by prior written order of the commission.** Sales made over the Internet or via a toll-free number and delivered directly to a consumers home most likely do NOT meet the criteria in Section 203.

It may seem that direct shipment offers the greatest convenience to consumers, but the dangers associated with minors accessing alcohol products and the potential avoidance of Michigan alcohol taxes and safety standard reviews (for quality of product and packaging) simply make at-home delivery unacceptable at this time.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission has recently passed a resolution encouraging the Michigan Members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, to allow the states more authority in the prosecution of companies involved in illegal shipping of alcohol. The previous Michigan Attorney General, Jennifer M. Granholm successfully prosecuted several out of state retailers and received an assurance of discontinuance from the United Parcel Service that it will no longer deliver alcohol into the state of Michigan and will notify the Michigan Attorney General's office of any attempted alcohol shipments.

Questions about direct shipping of alcohol may be directed to the MLCC Enforcement Division at 517-322-1370.

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